

Message Text

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22

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

IO-13 /070 W

----- 051491

R 311011Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2777

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 24493

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PFOR, TH

SUBJECG: CABINET TURNS DOWN THANOM, CONFIRMS REOPENING OF THAI-
LAO BORDER AT TWO POINTS

1. GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN CHAIWAT TRAISUNAN ANNOUNCED EARLY
AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 31 THAT THE CABINET HAD TURNED DOWN
FORMER PRIME MINISTER THANOM KITTIKHACHON'S REQUEST TO
RETURN TO VISIT HIS AILING FATHER. CHAIWAT SAID THE CABINET
DID NOT TAKE A FORMAL VOTE BUT AGREED THAT THANOM'S REQUEST
SHOULD BE DENIED FOR THE SAKE OF PEACE AND ORDER IN THE
COUNTRY AND BECAUSE IT WAS THE WISH OF THE MAJORITY OF THE
PEOPLE.

2. A SOURCE IN THE POLICE ADVISED RSO THAT POLICE HAVE
BEEN ORDERED TO KEEP A CLOSE WATCH ON THANOM'S RESIDENCE
HERE IN BANGKOK ON THE OFF-CHANCE THAT HE MIGHT ATTEMPT TO
RETURN TO THAILAND WITHOUT PERMISSION. IN HIS PRESS CON-
FERENCE AFTER THE CABINET MEETING, GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN
CHAIWAT SAID THAT HE BELIEVED THAT THANOM WOULD NOT TRY
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TO SLIP INTO THE COUNTRY WITHOUT RTG PERMISSION.

3. ACCORDING TO USIS AT THE SAME PRESS CONFERENCE CHAIWAT ALSO ANNOUNCED THE CABINET'S DECISION TO REOPEN THAI -LAO BORDER AT TWO ADDITIONAL POINTS. THE FIRST IS MUKDAHAN, OPPOSITE SAVANNAKHET. THE OTHER WILL BE DECIDED UPON AT A LATER DATE. HE ADDED THAT THE PORTS OF ENTRY WOULD BE OPEN SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH THE RELEASE OF THOSE THIS HELD PRISONER BY THE LAOTIAN AUTHORITIES. HE DID NOT SAY WHEN THE REOPENING WOULD BE.

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